

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 03

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE
TO ASSESS THE PROBLEM OF ELECTRONIC WASTE AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL.

WHEREAS, the technology explosion has created an
exponential increase in electronic waste that contains
dangerous substances such as lead, mercury and polychlorinated
biphenyls that can pollute air and water; and

WHEREAS, used and nonfunctioning electronic products draw
down landfill space, and recycling those products prevents the
release of heavy metals and polychlorinated biphenyls that
could pose environmental and health risks; and

WHEREAS, the city of Albuquerque has established a program
to support computer recycling; and

WHEREAS, the national recycling coalition provides

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1 technical advice to recycle and reduce electronic waste; and

2 WHEREAS, the private sector conducts events to collect and
3 recycle electronic waste; and

4 WHEREAS, there are companies in Arizona, Colorado and
5 Texas that specialize in electronic waste recycling; and

6 WHEREAS, there is a market for recycling electronic waste
7 that can provide jobs and computer resources for education;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of environment be
10 requested to appoint a task force composed of the department of
11 environment, local governments, recycling coalitions, local
12 solid waste authorities, the private computer industry, the
13 city of Albuquerque and the national laboratories to assess the
14 problem of electronic waste; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
16 findings and make recommendations to the appropriate committee
17 of the legislature by December 1, 2005; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of environment.